

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 168

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Carl Mann for his contributions to the world of music.

WHEREAS, Tennessee has long been known throughout the world for its rich music heritage; from the hills of East Tennessee through Music City U.S.A. to the banks of the Mississippi, the talented musicians of this State have earned a reputation that is unsurpassed in the history of American music; and

WHEREAS, born August 22, 1942, in the strongly rural area of Huntington, Tennessee, where his family ran a lumber business, Carl Mann was soon to take the world of rock and roll by storm; and

WHEREAS, Carl Mann fell in love with country music as a child, and at age nine, he began singing in church and was on stage at the Grand Ole Opry; he soon moved on to perform country songs at area talent contests; and

WHEREAS, he learned to play the guitar at age ten and the piano at age thirteen, by which time he had already become a regular on local radio; and

WHEREAS, Carl Mann formed a band with several other young musicians, and he soon took an interest in the rhythm and blues and rockabilly records that some of his DJ friends played on the radio, especially those of Elvis Presley; and

WHEREAS, Carl Mann's professional career began in 1957, when he and his group, Kool Kats, recorded *Gonna Rock and Roll Tonight* for Jim Stewart's Memphis-based Jaxon label; and

WHEREAS, in 1959, Sam Phillips, proprietor of the legendary Sun Records, signed Carl Mann, who subsequently recorded two chart singles that same year, *Mona Lisa* and *Pretend/Rockin' Love*; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mann's rockabilly reworking of *Mona Lisa* was an instant smash hit, reaching number twenty-five on the charts and selling more than one million copies; he wasn't yet 17 years old; and

WHEREAS, in addition to Carl Mann performing the vocals and playing piano, other band members included, Robert Oatswell, bass; Eddie Bush, guitar; and W.S. Holland, drums; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mann also achieved success with hits, *Some Enchanted Evening*, and *I'm Coming Home* in 1960; and

WHEREAS, in 1964, Carl Mann was drafted into the United States Army and nobly served his country until 1966; and

WHEREAS, upon returning to the states, he signed with the Monument label and recorded, *Down to My Last, I Forgive You*; then in 1974, he signed with ABC Dunhill Records, for which company he recorded a number of country songs; and

WHEREAS, in 1977, Mr. Mann received an offer from the Dutch label Rockhouse Records to record for European audiences, and he issued a couple of albums on that label: the half-live/half-studio *Gonna Rock and Roll Tonight* achieved very successful sales, and *Rockabilly Country* showcased Mr. Mann's fantastic talents in regard to singing both rock-and-roll and country music; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, he toured periodically, occasionally returning to Europe; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Mann eventually returned to his roots in Huntingdon, the place where he developed his love of country music, to concentrate on the family's logging business; and

WHEREAS, professional accomplishments aside, Carl Mann is the proud father of a son; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee is recognized throughout the world as the home of country music, and the cities of this great State resound with the rich and colorful sound of the truly American music, a sound to which Carl Mann has added his own distinct voice; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we recognize his illustrious career which has spanned over fifty years, and the extraordinary talents of one of Tennessee's most gifted singers and musicians; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor Carl Mann on his legendary musical talent as a performing artist and entertainer, commend him on his singular contributions to the music industry, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.